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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 随身英语

### Summer-born kids

### 夏天出生的孩子



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#### Vocabulary: Education 词汇: 教育

The first year of school can be **stressful** – not for the kids, but for the parents!

They want their little ones to do well at school and some **pushy parents** will already be thinking about how they can get their child to **the top of the class**.

But some parents are **concerned** about the **rules** for when children should start school.



#### *Does age difference really matter?*

The School **Admissions** Code for England says that children must join the **reception** class the September after their fourth birthday.

But here is the problem: A four year old who is born in August could be in the same class as someone who was born in October of the previous year! Both of them were four years old in September.

The older child will probably **do better** in class tests. He or she is almost a year older! This can affect the **confidence** of the younger child.

Now England's schools minister, Nick Gibbs says that the rules should be changed. In an **open letter** to councils, schools and parents he says, "Parents know their children best".

And he said that some parents "feel **forced** to send their child to school before they are ready".

He **proposes** that children that are born during the summer can join the class when they are four or wait until they are five.

Dr. David Whitebread, an **educationalist** from Cambridge University says that the UK has a summer-born effect because children start school so young.

"In countries with these later starting ages, there is a very much **reduced** summer-born effect or none at all", he said.

## 词汇表

<b>stressful</b>	有压力的，精神紧张的
<b>pushy</b>	争强好胜的
<b>the top of the class</b>	班级的尖子
<b>concerned</b>	担心，担忧
<b>rules</b>	规定
<b>admissions</b>	招生
<b>reception</b>	小班，学前班
<b>to do better</b>	表现更好
<b>confidence</b>	自信
<b>open letter</b>	公开信
<b>forced</b>	被迫
<b>propose</b>	提议
<b>educationalist</b>	教育学家
<b>reduced</b>	减少

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. In England how old are children when they start school?
2. Are summer-born children usually the youngest in the class?
3. Why are some parents concerned about the age of their child?
4. How would you describe the "summer-born effect"?
5. Do kids in other countries start school later?
6. What is a name for a specialist in education?
7. Push is a verb. Make it an adjective.

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I am interested \_\_\_\_\_ learning other languages.

in	with	on	for
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2. Doing exams can be \_\_\_\_\_.

stress	stressed	stressful	unstressed
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3. I study English \_\_\_\_\_.

some day	someday	everyday	every day
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4. The university's \_\_\_\_\_ policy is complicated.

admissions	permissions	commissions	submissions
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5. How will this \_\_\_\_\_ my grades?

effect	affect	effective	effects
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. In England how old are children when they start school?

**Four years old.**

2. Are summer-born children usually the youngest in the class?

**Yes, because a child born in the other seasons will be turning five during the school year.**

3. Why are parents concerned about the age of their child?

**They are worried that the child might not be ready for school.**

4. How would you describe the "summer-born effect"?

**Summer-born children sometimes do worse on tests than older students.**

5. Do kids in other countries start school later?

**Yes, in some countries the starting age is much older?**

6. What is a name for a specialist in education?

**Educationalist**

7. Push is a verb. Make it an adjective.

**Pushy**

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I am interested **in** learning other languages.

2. Doing exams can be **stressful**.

3. I study English **every day**.

4. The university's **admissions** policy is complicated.

5. How will this **affect** my grades?